

FEB 01 2000

MS. RITA BOGOLUB: Good evening. My name is Rita Bogolub, B-o-g-o-l-u-b. I live in Berwyn, Illinois, where I've lived all of my life.

1...

I want to thank you for this meeting tonight. It's the first time I have ever been part of a public hearing. It gives me a little bit of a feeling of being part of this process, but I would like to say it's far from enough. I, as people before me have said, believe we need much more public education and input before any kind of a final decision is made.

I think this public hearing seems to, from the information I have been given, seems to have been made at the last minute to include even Chicago, which is going to be a key point in the transportation routes in Illinois, too, and I think we have to have a lot more public education and input from the public before this kind of a thing would go through.

2

I would like to comment on why I believe Yucca Mountain will fail to isolate waste. DOE's own data shows that Yucca Mountain site will fail to contain nuclear waste. Radioactive gases will be released and radioactive waste will be washed into the groundwater a short time after the first containers fail.

Containers do fail. About 70 dry storage casks are in use at reactors. There is already one juvenile failure, a cask with a faulty weld in less than 20 years. Repository casks will be made of different material, but the manufacturing will be subject to the same problems. There will be more than 10,000 repository casks, and so likely hundreds of early cask failures.

3

DOE and Congress have both changed the rules of the game repeatedly using -- instead of disqualifying the site as their own regulations was called for, they have changed the rules of how they are qualified. Also, originally, the DOE was to propose and study three alternative sites so that we would have three different sites to choose from, and that was changed to study only one site because of the enormous task it was to study three sites. But that did not consider the safety of human beings in the environment in that changing.

4...

Over 200 local, state, national and international environmental public interest organizations petitioned the DOE to disqualify the site under existing repository sites suitability guidelines. DOE's in the process of attempting to change these guidelines even while they are taking public comment on an environmental impact statement that should be based on them. DOE denied the petition to disqualify not because they could prove the 200 groups were wrong, but because they want to study the site more in order to try to prove those 200 groups wrong.

In the meantime, the site violates a disqualifying condition for nuclear waste repository that requires that water move very slowly in the ground. DOE's data shows that the water travels very quickly through the Yucca Mountain rock. Since the Yucca Mountain site is not fit to isolate nuclear waste, DOE has come to rely on engineered barriers for containment, contradicting the legislative mandate for the program which selected geological -- geologic isolation.

If DOE is going to rely on engineered structures, the whole process must be started over to examine appropriate siting and design for engineered isolation. Instead of holding public

4 | hearings on Yucca, DOE should be holding public meetings on how to start over on a high level  
nuclear waste program.

5 | Yucca Mountain repository project violates a treaty with the Western Shoshone Nation. There is  
7 | an unsettled land dispute which DOE ignores. DOE also ignores the fact that the State of Nevada  
has a law against having a nuclear waste dump in their state.

6 | Concerning the transport of irradiated nuclear fuel, specific concerns and information about the  
routes have not been made public. I have concerns about the environmental protection, safety,  
liability, disaster management, workers' safety, incidental radiation exposure and property values  
over the 30 years of nuclear waste shipments.

Nationally, this is the largest nuclear waste shipping campaign in history, affecting 43 states,  
hundreds of towns and cities and moving more high-level waste each year than the last 30 years  
combined. 50 million people live within a half mile of the projected routes.

8 | Locally, Illinois is expected to receive the third largest number of shipments, as many as 13,000  
over the next 30 years or an average of eight per week every week for 30 years, all requiring  
costly escort services. DOE's environmental impact statement assumes specific routes, but these  
routes have only just been released. We need specific information on the routes in Illinois and  
we need time to consider them. DOE averages those impacted by a severe shipping accident  
across the whole U.S. population when they say there is no significant impact in early analysis.

DR. LAWSON (Facilitator): 30 seconds, please.

MS. BOGOLUB: This way of considering these things is not acceptable.

1 cont. | I would like to ask that the initial question and answer period should be on record.

And, finally, say that there has not been enough public education or input. We should be  
beginning, not ending public education and comment on this project.

Thank you.